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## SERVICES DIVISION INDICATIONS JOURNAL

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2. Propaganda—Formosa Straits  
 (Info Date —March 1955)

During the past two weeks the Consulate General at Hong Kong and other observers have noted a substantial diminution in volume and belligerence in Peiping press and radio propaganda on "Taiwan liberation" theme. This coupled with strong emphasis in limited official commentary on Chinese Communist support of the Soviet proposal for international conference and on welcome of "all genuine international efforts" to ease the Taiwan tension.

Consulate General's Comment: Uncertainty over US intentions on the defense of Hainan and Quemoy and the feeling that its intransigently bellicose position has reacted against it in neutralist Asia could have induced Peiping to tone down its propaganda campaign for the time being. The Chinese Communists may actually favor an international conference as offering the best tactical opportunity at this time. However, they have so far pointedly rejected the possibility of Chinese Nationalist participation and have ruled out discussion of the "status" of Taiwan as constituting intervention in China's internal affairs.

Source: State, Hong Kong. T 1245, 19 March 55, JOINT   11 POL, S  
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